

votes on the House floor. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 32 and "yea" on rollcall No. 33.

HONORING THE LIFE OF  
KIMBERLY SUZANNE RATHER

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 5, 2014*

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a gifted educator and beloved member of the Rockwall community, Kimberly Suzanne Rather, who passed away on November 29, 2013 at the age of 45. Born and raised in Rockwall, Kimberly graduated from Rockwall High School and earned a scholarship to Tyler Junior College where she was selected to be a member of the renowned Apache Belles dance team. She then continued her education at Stephen F. Austin where she graduated Summa Cum Laude with a Bachelor's in education. She began her teaching career in the Hurst Euless Bedford School District and later taught in the Garland School District. She then became an Educational Consultant with the Cheryl Cox Consulting Firm, an organization which provides teachers with educational materials to assist their students with required state testing. In 2000, Kimberly retired to stay home with her three children.

We join Kimberly's family—husband Chris and children CJ, Abby and Jacob, parents Ron and Gale, brother, grandparents, aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews and cousins—in remembering her radiant smile and warm heart. Kimberly Rather was a lovely and intelligent young lady and successful at every crossroads she met all of her life. I ask the U.S. House of Representatives to close today's session in honor and remembrance of this talented and loved young lady.

ELEANOR GREMILLION'S 90TH  
BIRTHDAY

HON. VANCE M. McALLISTER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 5, 2014*

Mr. McALLISTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great pride and pleasure to commemorate Ms. Eleanor Gremillion on the occasion of her 90th birthday.

Eleanor was born and raised in Marksville Louisiana. She graduated from Marksville High School in 1940 and laid the groundwork for her career in the finance business with her first job in the office of an attorney. Ms. Gremillion worked as the manager of Gulfco Finance Company in Marksville for thirty-two years and served the company as vice president, operations manager and was on the board of directors. Until the age limit forced her to step down, she served as a director of the Cottonport Bank for fifteen years. As civil service director for the City of Marksville, Eleanor's focus was to secure the best possible employees for the town of Marksville.

A daughter of a World War I veteran, Eleanor has been a lifelong member of the American Legion Auxiliary and today, she continues

to be actively involved with the organization at the state level. She served with great distinction as state president and subsequently served as a national officer for several years. Eleanor's devotion of time and effort to her community is second to none and since its inception in 1974, she served the Marksville Chamber of Commerce in various capacities and currently serves the Chamber with unwavering dedication as secretary-treasurer.

Eleanor also serves as a board member of the Avoyelles Society for the Developmentally Disabled, secretary of the Hypolite Bordelon Home Society and is on the board of directors of the Avoyelles Commission on Tourism. She served as chairwoman of Marksville's birthday celebrations in the years of 1959, 1969, 1979, 1989 and 1999, Marksville's year of celebration for the bicentennial in 2009 and the Marksville July Fourth parade and activities, which is the longest running event of its kind in the State of Louisiana. She was named Avoyellean of the year in 1969, Citizen of the Year in 1974 and 1989, Woman of Excellence by the Town Talk and the Rapides Foundation in 2005 and received a Lifetime Achievement Award at the Louisiana Tourism Promotion Association Summit in 2009.

Ms. Gremillion has earned the respect and admiration of everyone she has met along her journey. I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to her years of dedication and achievements.

TRIBUTE TO EDWARD BRUNER,  
PH.D.

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 5, 2014*

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute the career of a distinguished servant of Congress in the field of foreign affairs, defense and trade. Later this month, Edward Bruner, Ph.D., will retire from the Congressional Research Service after 23 years of outstanding service to the legislative branch.

Dr. Bruner joined CRS in 1991 after a 27-year career in the United States Army that was highlighted by service in Vietnam, teaching Geography at the United States Military Academy at West Point, and command of an armor battalion at Ft. Knox, Kentucky. From 1991–94, he was a specialist in national defense at CRS, where he advised on such topics as Army transformation and modernization, peacekeeping operations, and the appropriate size of the U.S. military. In 1994, in recognition of his leadership abilities, he was asked to head the Defense Policy and Arms Control Section of the Foreign Affairs, Defense, and Trade Division, where he supervised the day-to-day research activities of a team of senior CRS analysts and specialists. In 2004, he was asked to assume a greater leadership role and was named Deputy Assistant Director of the Foreign Affairs, Defense, and Trade Division, where he has served for the past ten years.

Dr. Bruner's tenure at CRS has been marked by his unparalleled dedication to the U.S. Congress and the men and women of CRS' Foreign Affairs, Defense and Trade Division. Whether as a national defense specialist, Section Head, or, ultimately, as Deputy Assistant Director, Dr. Bruner's high professional

standards ensured that Congress received timely and authoritative policy analysis of the highest order. When he assumed a leadership role at CRS, he focused his efforts on helping to build a world-class team of managers, analysts, and support staff designed to support the rapidly evolving needs of Congress. No matter how demanding his day-to-day schedule, he always found time to be a mentor, counselor and friend to others, whether it was to CRS staff, new congressional staffers, or newly-elected Members of Congress. His ability to frame policy issues and organize research efforts for complex and multi-faceted policy challenges, combined with his deft personal touch, inspired the respect and loyalty of the entire Foreign Affairs, Defense, and Trade Division team.

Dr. Edward Bruner leaves behind him not only a distinguished public service career but a legacy of leadership and mentorship that will have a lasting impact on CRS. I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing our deepest gratitude and appreciation to him for his 50 years of service to our nation.

IN CELEBRATION OF 20 YEARS OF  
TRADE RELATIONS BETWEEN  
THE UNITED STATES AND VIETNAM

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 5, 2014*

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, as a Vietnam veteran, I rise today to celebrate the 20th anniversary of Trade Relations between the United States and Vietnam.

On February 3, 1994, President Bill Clinton lifted the U.S. trade embargo against Vietnam and ushered in a new era of U.S.-Vietnam relations, which led to the establishment of full diplomatic relations in 1995. These achievements were made possible by the support of Senator JOHN MCCAIN, then Senator John Kerry, and many other distinguished Americans.

Today, U.S.-Vietnam relations are deeper and more diverse. In November 2000, President Clinton became the first U.S. President to visit Vietnam since President Nixon's 1969 trip to South Vietnam during the Vietnam War.

On July 25, 2013, President Truong Tan Sang's visit to the United States became only the second by a Vietnamese head of state since the "normalization" in 1995. I was honored to host President Sang on July 24, 2013 in Room S-115 of the U.S. Capitol at an event held one day prior to his visit with President Barack Obama at the White House.

U.S. Senate Majority Leader HARRY REID provided the venue for this historic meeting which included a select, bipartisan group of five U.S. Senators and five Members of the U.S. House of Representatives. In an open and frank conversation with President Sang, we discussed trade, security, the East Sea, human rights, religious freedom, Agent Orange, Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) negotiations, and many other topics of interest and concern. President Sang and U.S. lawmakers expressed a deep commitment to strengthening our bilateral relations, and I was personally impressed by President Sang's extraordinary vision and leadership. President Sang

serves Vietnam with distinction, and I thank him for all he has done to advance the U.S.-Vietnam relationship, a relationship which is based on mutual trust and understanding.

During my visit to Hanoi in December 2012, I also had the privilege of meeting with Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung and, on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of trade relations between the U.S. and Vietnam, I wish to praise him for the remarkable service he renders. His leadership has led to improved relations between our two countries, and I acknowledge his significant contributions.

I also acknowledge the contributions of Madam Tong Thi Phong, Vice-Chair of the National Assembly, who I met again in December 2012 while in Hanoi. Madam Phong is an exceptional leader and one of only two female members of Vietnam's Politburo. I commend Madam Phong for the significant contributions she has made to her country and ours. Her work is of great consequence.

I also recognize Vietnam's Politburo which is comprised of 16 members who are actively engaged in promoting cooperation between the United States and Vietnam. The Politburo's past and present contributions to the bilateral relationship are the reason we are celebrating 20 years of trade relations between our two countries.

Having served in Vietnam during the War and having since visited Vietnam on several occasions in my official capacity both as Chairman and Ranking Member of the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific, I have seen Vietnam in many ways. I stand as a witness to the beauty, progress, goodness and strength of the U.S.-Vietnam Comprehensive Partnership.

I have worked side-by-side with many of Vietnam's Ambassadors to the United States and have acknowledged their work accordingly. But, on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of trade relations between our two countries, I pay special tribute to His Excellency Ambassador Nguyen Quoc Cuong who I consider to be a colleague, a friend, and a brother.

Ambassador Cuong represents the government and people of Vietnam with full integrity and unwavering commitment. In recognition of his tireless efforts in building a forward-looking relationship between our two countries and, in special consideration of our abiding friendship, I enter his name in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD to stand as a testament of our work together.

I am thankful for the twists and turns of life that have led me back and forth to Vietnam. I returned to Vietnam after 40 years and, at a dinner hosted by the National Assembly of Vietnam, I had long discussions with my counterparts who had also served in the Vietnam War. Although we were once enemies, we embraced each other as friends who share the same hopes and dreams for our families, friends and nations. We recognized that the broken times of Friday are behind us. Sunday has come. Peace is here.

And so, I applaud former President Bill Clinton, President George W. Bush, President Barack Obama, former U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, Senator JOHN MCCAIN, former Senator and now U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, members of the House and Senate and, on Vietnam's part, President Sang, Prime Minister Dung, the Politburo, and the National Assembly for building a path of peace and

prosperity. I especially honor those who have gone before us, because nothing we accomplish is possible without the perseverance of those who went first. I also acknowledge the contributions of those unnamed who have contributed in small and great ways to make this day possible.

The U.S.-Vietnam partnership is stronger than it has ever been, and I would be remiss if I did not attribute much of the strength of our partnership to the veterans from both sides who have brought about change. While we should not rest until the United States fully addresses and rectifies the Agent Orange issue, I am pleased for now that both governments and our people are about the business of deepening U.S.-Vietnam ties. I am proud to be part of this historic undertaking. I am proud to be a friend of Vietnam and, without doubt, I believe the best is yet to come.

### HONORING THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY MARCHING BAND

#### HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 5, 2014*

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the accomplishments of The Ohio State University Marching Band. Their outstanding innovation and halftime shows were recently featured in a national commercial for the Apple iPad that aired during the Super Bowl.

Since being founded in 1878, the all-brass and percussion Marching Band at Ohio State has led the way by creating new techniques and utilizing innovative technologies. Their iconic Script Ohio has in recent years been joined by animated formations that seem to float across the field.

Recently the Band gained more national prominence as their performances have garnered a lot of attention on YouTube. The Band's halftime show on October 6, 2012, celebrated many popular video games including Super Mario Bros., Tetris, and The Legend of Zelda, and has received over 16 million views.

For the 2013 season, the Band began using iPads to learn formations more quickly and more effectively, while saving money and paper. Seniors Ryan Barta and Charlie King deserve recognition for the idea, while the Band's director, Jon Waters, deserves credit for embracing it. The project would not have been possible without support from Ohio State's Digital First Impact Grant and its Office of Energy and the Environment. As a result, the 2013 season saw many halftime shows grab national headlines, with tributes to Hollywood and Michael Jackson receiving over 16 million and almost 10 million views respectively. Their use of cutting-edge technology while honoring the Band's traditions has made it a well-respected part of Buckeye Nation.

As an alumnus of the band, I am proud to extend heartfelt congratulations to all those who have helped The Ohio State University's Marching Band—The Best Damn Band in the Land—continue to be such a complete and resounding success!

IN RECOGNITION OF BRIDGEWATER INTERIORS ON ITS DESIGNATION AS THE 2013 MINORITY MANUFACTURER OF THE YEAR BY THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

#### HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 5, 2014*

Mr. PETERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the executive team and employees of Bridgewater Interiors, LLC on their company's distinction as the 2013 Minority Manufacturer of the Year by the Minority Business Development Agency of the U.S. Department of Commerce.

The Greater Detroit region has a rich history of innovation and is a community that is made strong through the diversity of its residents. Launched in 1998, as a joint venture between Detroit-based Epsilon Technologies, LLC and Johnson Controls, Inc., Bridgewater Interiors is a modern embodiment of these legacies. From its local beginnings, the management team and employees of Bridgewater Interiors embarked on a commitment to deliver high quality products that range from automotive seating systems to overhead systems and center consoles. As a testament to its success, Bridgewater Interiors has grown into a national Tier 1 supplier to the Big Three with over 1,500 employees at four sites across the country.

Bridgewater Interiors prides itself on being a goal-oriented organization that promotes and recognizes the dedication of its employees. To promote high morale amongst its employees, Bridgewater's leadership team has created a work environment that is responsive to employee concerns, creates an open-door policy for access to senior management and that strives to recognize employees for their contributions to their organization's success. In support of its commitment to the ongoing training of its workforce, Bridgewater Interiors provides its employees with a tuition reimbursement program for college studies. Given these commitments to product quality and its employees, it is little wonder that Bridgewater Interiors has been named one of Metropolitan Detroit's 101 Best and Brightest Companies to Work for by the 101 Best and Brightest organization.

As the leader of a certified Minority Business Enterprise, Bridgewater Interiors' President and CEO, Ron Hall, Sr. has been committed to supporting diversity both within his company and the manufacturing industry. As a result of his commitment to the principles of diversity, Mr. Hall effectively leveraged his leadership at Bridgewater Interiors to hone the organization and mission of the Michigan Minority Supplier Development Council—now one of the premier minority business organizations in the country. In addition to his work within the manufacturing industry, Mr. Hall serves as the Vice President of Minority Business Development at New Detroit, Inc., the nation's first urban coalition, as well as taking a leading role at other local organizations, including the American Diabetes Association of Michigan, Southeastern Michigan Junior Achievement and St. John's Hospital of Michigan.